

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2458
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2003
PRODUCTION OF AMMUNITIONS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the five types of 155mm ammunition developed by OFB, as per Bofors Technology, have passed relevant tests and acceptance criteria;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether bulk production of these 5 types of ammunition, especially 155mm HEER has commenced; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for not commencing the production?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five types of ammunition developed by OFB passed the proof schedule and the acceptance criteria specified in the technical documents and were accorded Bulk Production Clearance as follows:- M107 in November 1992, M77B in March 1995, HEER in February 1997, Smoke 24 km in July 1997 and Illuminating 18 km (MIRA) in October 2001.

(c) Consequent to the Bulk Production Clearance, OFB produced all the five types of Bofors ammunition to meet the army's requirement. In accordance with the indent placed by the army for HEER ammunition, 4965 HEER ammunitions of Bofors design were supplied by OFB. Thereafter, the army has placed indent for manufacture of ERFB (BB), which is similar ammunition of South African technology. Bulk Production Clearance has been accorded for ERFB (BB) ammunition with imported Base Bleed unit.

(d) Does not arise.